

Heritage NEWS

SUMMER 2010

33rd ANNUAL
Historic
HOME TOUR

Sunday, August 22
Noon - 5pm

HISTORIC HOUSE MARKERS AWARDED IN MAY

On Wednesday, May 26, 2010 the Heritage Foundation's Marker Award Banquet took place at the Ladies' Literary Club. At the banquet, owners of houses that meet certain criteria were recognized for their efforts and Historic Building Markers were awarded in order to publicly identify buildings of special merit.

The Heritage Foundation awarded the following homeowners historic markers for 2010.



407 E. Forest
Diana Dues
c. 1923



957 Sherman
Jonathan Grimes & Kathryn Sharp
c. 1928



1104 Pearl
Lani Chisnell
c. 1924



206 Oak
Steven Hylkema & Julia Collins
c. 1901



600 Roosevelt
Steve Upton
c. 1933



1303 Westmoorland
Nathalie Edmunds
c. 1940



118 South Washington
Steve Pierce & Maggie Brandt
c. 1893

Photos Rick Leyshock

33RD ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND



photo Griffin Reames

Since 1977, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has been pleased and proud to present one of our community's most important resources, our wealth of historic architecture. This year's homeowners have graciously agreed to open their doors so that we all may see and appreciate the results of historic preservation efforts in the Ypsilanti area.

This year's tour is a departure from what we have done in the past. For only the second time, we are leaving Ypsilanti for part of the tour. We are featuring four superb nineteenth-century properties three homes and a schoolhouse in Superior Township. Throughout their history, all four have had strong ties to the city of Ypsilanti. A perfect complement to these properties is a wonderful nineteenth-century home on Ypsilanti's south side. Finally, the nonprofit Corner Health Center on historic North Huron Street will be showing off its recent expansion and renovations, and tourgoers will be allowed in to see three beautifully designed modern loft apartments above the Spark East offices on Michigan Avenue.

Purchase tickets prior to the tour at Salt City Antiques, Norton's Flowers & Gifts, Haab's Restaurant, and Nelson Amos Studios, in Ypsilanti; Saxtons Garden Center, in downtown Plymouth; and Downtown Home & Garden, in Ann Arbor. On the day of the tour tickets will be available for purchase in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 North Huron Street and at Haab's restaurant.

If you are interested in being a tour guide for this year's event contact Jan Arps-Prundeanu. email: janarps60@gmail.com | phone: 734.834.4792

Marker Awards continued from page 1

The criteria used by the committee to select the homes for markers is as follows:

- The building is within the boundaries of the City of Ypsilanti.
- The building predates 1950 and has an identifiable architectural style.
- The building is well and appropriately maintained (maybe it has just been rehabilitated).
- The grounds are maintained.
- If it is a rental property, the property has had appropriate maintenance for at least two years.
- The building has been developed sensitively.

The following example gives an idea of what is meant by "appropriate maintenance."

- The siding on the building is what was originally intended or could have been used originally. Vinyl siding on a 19th century building is never appropriate.
- The windows are original or identical to the original in size and configuration.
- Porches, railings and steps are appropriate to the period and style of the building.
- Any additions are compatible.

OUT BUILDINGS RECOGNIZED AT MAY EVENT

In the back yards and lanes of Ypsilanti is still to be found a fascinating collection of village barns and carriage houses. They contribute to our architectural history and to the historic character of Ypsilanti in a way no other buildings can.

In September of 2007, the Heritage Foundation began a new program of awarding Historic Structure markers to those significant buildings. Honored this year were the following village barns and carriage houses



206-210 N. Washington



216 Washington



306 Jarvis



113 Buffalo

photo Rick Leyschack



JACK HARRIS

of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and Lake Ann, Michigan, died of an aortic aneurysm on April 3, 2010, in the University of Michigan Hospital ER. He was Professor Emeritus, Eastern Michigan University, and he is best known as a Shakespeare scholar, a land conservator, and a historic preservationist. Jack Harris was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 6, 1929. His parents, Arthur John and Lillian (O'Keefe) Harris, moved the family to Lake Ann when Jack was six weeks old. After graduation from Traverse City High School, Jack received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University. He was later awarded MA and Ph.D. degrees by the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, England. Jack taught English at Central Michigan University while completing his MA thesis, and, later, after earning his Ph.D., he taught at the University of Michigan and, finally, at Eastern Michigan

University, where he remained for twenty-seven years, until 1994, when he retired as Professor Emeritus. Jack had a long and distinguished career as a Shakespeare scholar. He was also an avid gardener. In 2002, the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presented him with the Special Recognition Award for his unwavering commitment to historic preservation in the Ypsilanti community. A celebration of Jack's life was held on May 8, 2010, at 11:00 AM, at Quirk Theatre on Eastern Michigan University's campus in Ypsilanti, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ypsilanti

Heritage Foundation, 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI, 48197 or to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, 3860 N. Long Lake Rd., Ste. D, Traverse City, MI 49684 tel: 231.929.7911. For the full text of the obituary, more details about Professor Harris's life, please go to his web site at <http://people.emich.edu/aharris1/toc>.



Jack Harris & Cliff Larkin



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

209 N. Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

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Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
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See you at the Home Tour - Sunday, August 22, 2010

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Denis Schmeideke was given an award to recognize his contributions to Historic Preservation in Ypsilanti.

The following are part of the remarks by Hank Prebys, President of the YHF, at the 2010 Awards Banquet:

Since this is an occasion when awards are given, The Board of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation authorized a special award to be given to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary service to historic preservation in Ypsilanti. His accomplishments and involvement in historic preservation are extensive. Denis was on the board of the YHF for several years and chaired the Washtenaw County HDC. He developed and produced a guide to Ypsilanti Historic Architecture. The buildings at 119 N. Huron and 18-20 N. Washington, were rehabilitation projects of Denis's. He was a major player in the restoration and installation of the Tiffany window at the Historic Museum. He was the photographer for the Home Tours and the Marker Awards for many years and he is pushing for the nomination of Highland Cemetery to the National Park Service as a historic site. Another of his accomplishments was the design of the Cross Street Bridge.

VOLUNTEERS • NEEDED



Photo Lynda Hummel

The Demetrius Ypsilanti statue is in need of maintenance on the base. There's no skills required just a little time. If you want to volunteer contact Don Randazzo. email don@donrandazzo.com phone: 734.482.6144

Heritage NEWS

Good News Edition



AUG./SEPT. 2010

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
2010 GOOD NEWS ISSUE
reporting, for our own delight
and that of our Festival visitors,
on some of the improvements
that have occurred in the
Ypsilanti Historic District over the
past year. It's also our chance to say
thank you to everyone who cares
for and about Ypsilanti!



Esek Pray-Van Bolt House

33rd Annual Historic

Home Tour

Sunday, August 22 noon – 5pm

The 33rd Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 22nd from noon - 5pm. This year's tour is a departure from what we have done in the past. For only the second time, we are leaving Ypsilanti for part of the tour. We are featuring four superb nineteenth-century properties—three homes and a schoolhouse—in Superior Township. Throughout their history, all four have had strong ties to the city of Ypsilanti. A perfect complement to these properties is a wonderful nineteenth-century home on Ypsilanti's south side. Finally, the nonprofit Corner Health Center on historic North Huron Street will be showing off its recent expansion and renovations, and tourgoers will be allowed in to see three beautifully designed

modern loft apartments above the Spark East offices on Michigan Avenue. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Salt City Antiques, and Nelson Amos Gallery, they are also available at Superior Township Hall, Downtown Home & Garden in Ann Arbor, and Saxtons Garden Center in downtown Plymouth. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 220 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.

Good News in Ypsilanti

Heritage News • Good News Edition - August • September 2010

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation presents its 2010 GOOD NEWS ISSUE for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors, who enjoy seeing "what has happened" since they were here last year! It's also our chance to say Thank You to everyone who cares about and for Ypsilanti!

Heritage Foundation
HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS
were awarded this year to the houses at:

1104 Pearl
957 Sherman
600 Roosevelt
407 East Forest
206 Oak
1303 Westmoorland
118 South Washington

and to the
village barns and carriage houses at:

206-210 North Washington
216 North Washington
306 Jarvis

Congratulations!



Historic Preservation
recycling on a grand scale!

MAJOR REHAB JOBS



Downtown, at 111-113 West Michigan, the storefronts at Puffer Red have been reconstructed, the brick walls exposed, historically appropriate new windows installed, as well as fresh paint and new awnings - a very handsome project altogether!



And on North Huron, just off Michigan Avenue, the Corner Health Center acquired the adjacent building and has rehabbed the storefront there and painted both buildings to match. Another significant contribution to the community!

At the Starkweather farmstead on Huron River Drive, work progresses slowly and carefully on this 166 year old Greek Revival house. An inappropriate rear addition has just been removed, making it possible for restoration work to begin on an original side porch



Good News in Ypsilanti

Heritage News • Good News Edition - August • September 2010



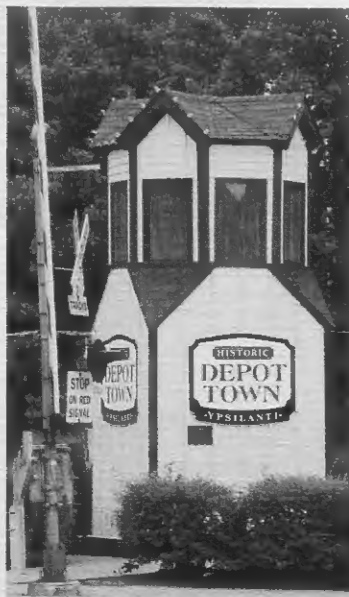
FREIGHTHOUSE

Have you been by the Freighthouse lately? Look up and feast your eyes on the new standing seam steel roof. What you can't see from the outside are the steel strong back columns that are reinforcing the interior walls and will keep our beloved building from shifting or sagging. These improvements were all part of Phase 1 of the MDOT ARRA construction which is now complete. Phase 2 will be starting within a few weeks and will be finished in October. During this phase you will see construction occurring on the exterior of the building and the decking surrounding it. This will include the reconstruction of the original west deck/loading dock and the expansion of the north deck to include an ADA ramp for the commuter rail passengers as well as others visiting the facility.

Be sure to visit the Freighthouse during Heritage Festival to view our display and get more details of the current work and future plans.

NICE WORK

The Depot Town Signal Tower has, not only a fresh coat of paint in historically accurate colors, but handsome new signs, as well.



Riverside Park is lovelier and more inviting for individuals and for events with the construction of a metal-roofed gazebo on the existing dock which extends out over the Huron River.



GREEN & GROWING

There seem to be more hanging baskets this year than ever before and they are beautiful!

Also, many thanks to everyone who has tucked petunias, marigolds, impatiens, and zinnias into alleys, window boxes, street corners, boulevards, and wonderful little nooks and crannies all over town!

Long needed repaving of a portion of North Mansfield and of College Place in front of Pease Auditorium is not only easier on the shock absorbers, but is a visual treat!

In the Water Street redevelopment area, all remaining structures have been demolished - a major step toward redevelopment of those 37 acres of riverfront land.



continued on page 7

2010 Historic Home Tour



113 Buffalo Street

Stewart Beal & Kathlyn Macker

This grand brick Queen Anne with Romanesque overtones was built in 1892 by Ypsilanti contractor Frank W. Glanfield. He incorporated into the house opulent touches like the mosaic design in the gables and the heavy and ornate wooden front doors. It is likely he had the many arched windows cut on site, lending the house a custom look. In the living room, a distinctive beveled-glass window in the shape of a Roman arch is a strong focal point both inside and out (note the view of it from the far end of the kitchen). Elaborate wooden wall paneling in the foyer, typical of upscale Queen Anne design, creates a stately feel. The presence of front and rear staircases will remind tourgoers of nineteenth-century living.

In the late 1890s William and Mary Campbell lived with their family in the house. Their daughter, Sarah, remained in the house until 1965. After that it sat vacant until 1973, when the Buffalo Street Commune moved in. The commune stayed five years, leaving in 1978.

As the years went by, the house suffered under a series of indifferent owners and fell into disrepair. But when Ypsilanti developer and contractor Stewart Beal and his fiancé, Kathlyn Macker, purchased it in 2009, they were lucky that its most recent owners had begun serious renovations. Beal immediately averted certain catastrophe by securing the masonry of the south wall, which had been in real danger of collapse. After that, the couple transformed the old butler's kitchen into a large and stunning galley kitchen.

Tourgoers will enjoy this "work in progress," with its spacious rooms, high ceilings, and glamorous bones. It is clear that the house is on its way back to its glory days as a gracious place to gather family and friends.



47 North Huron Street

The Corner Health Center

For twenty-three years 47 North Huron Street has been home to the Corner Health Center, a nonprofit organization that provides health care, health education, and support services to young people, ages twelve through twenty-one, and their children, regardless of their ability to pay.

The building was constructed around 1890. It was occupied by Bazarette's Notions and Dry Goods in 1893 when a cyclone badly damaged the roof. The building has since housed an engraver, a butcher, several grocers, a contractor, and a hardware store. It was an S & H Green Stamp redemption center in the 1970s. Shaefer Hardware operated in the building for several years in the 1920s and again in the mid-1980s.

In 1987 the Corner Health Center purchased 47 North Huron from the Ypsilanti Board of Realtors. An old supply elevator operated by a manual pulley was in the back of the building; it moved supplies between floors. The Corner removed the elevator and renovated the main floor to function as a health care clinic.

The Corner has since expanded to include 51 and 57 North Huron. It purchased 51 North Huron, in 1990, from a tailor, and 57 North Huron, in 2006, from the Edenburns. The family had operated a locksmith shop there for many years.

The recent expansion and renovation of the Corner, completed in 2009, retained the original brick wall and the archway in the reception area, as well as the high ceilings throughout. The main floor now has thirteen exam rooms, a medical laboratory, and offices for clinicians and staff. The second floor houses administrative offices and meeting space, including a large conference room that is available for community use. The basement is used for storage of records and supplies and additional meeting space.

The Corner provides a valuable service to the community, and it values the community's history as well.

33rd Annual *Historic Home Tour*

Sunday, August 22nd from noon-5pm Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour.

2010 Historic Home Tour



211-215 West Michigan Avenue

Mack and Mack Lofts

Eric & Karen Maurer

Eric and Karen Maurer have been creating loft apartments in historic buildings on Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti for five years. Last summer they turned the space above the Spark East offices in the former Mack and Mack Furniture building (one of the oldest structures in the city) into eleven apartments. The apartments range from a studio with 550 square feet to a bi-level with 1,300 square feet; four are on one floor, seven are bi-levels. All were leased by the time they were ready for occupancy.

Eric Maurer had definite ideas about how he wanted the apartments to look, and he worked closely with architect Stephan Hoffman of Hoffman Design to bring his ideas to fruition. Each apartment is unique and artfully designed to highlight unusual spaces, but all utilize brick walls, skylights that open, and custom-made aluminum balustrades to create a modern industrial vibe. All also have nifty kitchens.

The three apartments on today's tour each use space very differently. A bi-level has the only outdoor access—a huge deck. The apartment was particularly suited to its first tenant, a bachelor dental student, who moved out just before the tour. Another bi-level makes use of a skylight to bring light into its main room. Medical resident Jeanie Cote was about to move in on the day a member of the home tour committee came by to see it. The third apartment, also a bi-level, has two bedrooms, and its tenant, Samkeliso Mawocha, has created a charming and appealing home.

Eric Maurer says he and Karen continue to buy historic buildings in downtown Ypsilanti and turn their upper floors into loft apartments because they are able to maintain almost 100 percent occupancy. The Maurers currently lease thirty loft apartments and are developing another eleven or twelve in the former Mellencamp Building on Michigan Avenue.



8605 West Ann Arbor Road, Superior Township

Geer-Miller House

Glenn and Jeanine Miller

This picturesque farmhouse, urban in style and form, is one of the finest examples of Italianate architecture in Superior Township. It stands as evidence of Michigan's proud and prosperous nineteenth-century rural past.

Milton and Kittie Geer hired Ypsilanti contractor Herschel Goodspeed to build the house in 1884. The young couple had married the year before, settling on 146 acres purchased from Milton's father. (The son of Watson Geer and Mary Jane Pray, Milton grew up in the Pray house on Ann Arbor Road, also featured on this year's tour.) The Geers had three children. The signatures of their two youngest, Roy and Hazel, can still be seen upstairs on the plaster walls of a bedroom.

The Geers operated their farm for about twenty years, raising livestock and growing crops. They left farming for the city about 1903, moving to a house on Congress Street in Ypsilanti. Milton served as secretary of his brother-in-law's business, Ypsilanti's Michigan Ladder Company. The Geers rented their farm to tenants until 1923, when they sold it to George and Mary Barnes. The Barnes family operated it as a dairy farm until the mid-1970s. The family changed the house very little in nearly eighty years of occupancy by two generations.

When Glenn and Jeanine Miller purchased the home from the Barnes estate in May 2000, they began an extensive restoration of this long-neglected gem. The house's second floor never had electricity or central heating. A bathroom had been awkwardly added in the best parlor in 1950. Yet the home retained many of its fine original features, including the walnut, butternut, and oak woodwork.

Over the past ten years, the Millers have carefully restored the house, doing most of the work themselves. They have enjoyed researching the home, gleaning information about its past inhabitants from census records, newspapers, and city directories. This research led them to descendants of the Geers, one of whom will share photographs and history of the Geer family during today's tour.

Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, Salt City Antiques, Nelson Amos Gallery and Superior Township Hall. They are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden and in downtown Plymouth at Saxtons Garden Center. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 220 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Haab's on Michigan Ave.

2010 Historic Home Tour



8755 West Ann Arbor Road, Superior Township

Esek Pray-Van Bolt House *John and Jane Van Bolt*

Long a landmark on the busy road that connects the cities of Ann Arbor and Plymouth, the Esek Pray House has stood since 1839 as a testament to the wealth and sense of style of one of Superior Township's most prominent founding families. Built of red brick in a very traditional classical style, it is among the oldest remaining dwellings in the township. Both floors of the house have two rooms on each side of a central hall.

Among the house's many interesting architectural features are its wonderful Greek Revival details: wrap-around frieze board with cornice returns at the gable ends; dentil molding; a lunette in each gable; and an elaborate extra-wide front entry, with a two-panel door and sidelights.

Esek Pray participated in township, county, and state politics in the 1830s and 1840s. He was a member of the famed "Frostbitten Convention," of December 14, 1836, which enabled Michigan to become a state. He participated in the first state legislature and was justice of the peace of Superior Township for twenty-four years. Pray also developed his farm into a highly successful operation, and he and his wife, Sally Ann, raised eight children. All of them married into neighboring families. His great-grandson Carl Esek Pray was the extremely popular head of the Social Science and History Department at Eastern Michigan University from 1914 to 1938. EMU's Pray-Harold classroom building is named after him.

John and Jane Van Bolt have owned the property since 1987. The interior is wonderfully decorated in a style appropriate to its age. The couple has a terrific collection of period furniture, including family items. They have taken loving and imaginative care in developing the original part of the house, paying close attention to wallpapers and appropriate paint colors. In 2001 they added a marvelous new kitchen and screened porch. The addition blends with the spectacular setting, which is in itself a delight.

Esek and Sally Ann Pray would still recognize their home, and they would be pleased with its evolution.



9105 West Ann Arbor Road, Superior Township

McCormick-Williams Farm *Karl and Kay Williams*

This property, currently owned by Karl and Kay Williams, became the William and Jane McCormick Farmstead Historic District in 2002. It is cited as an excellent example of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farmstead. With its 1837 "Upright and Wing" farmhouse built in a vernacular style and its collection of original outbuildings, the farmstead represents living farm history. Notable among the outbuildings is a large and exceptional old barn that dates from the 1860s (it was modified in the 1920s).

William McCormick left Phelpsstown, New York, in 1931, to follow his sons to the Salem Township area. He built the large, two-story brick house and, according to McCormick family history, the bricks for the house were made on the 160-acre farm. In its early days the house featured Greek Revival details, including cornice returns, six-over-six square window openings, and a front door flanked by sidelights. The original construction details and the remaining original staircase suggest that the house was first built as an inn. William McCormick had reportedly owned one in his previous life in New York State.

In his day McCormick was one of the area's most successful farmers; he died in 1850. His heirs owned the property and ran the farm until 1874 (his widowed daughter-in-law in 1870 married into the Pray family next door). The Grammel family owned the farm from 1917 to 1965. They removed the Greek Revival trim and added a Dutch colonial revival hood above the door. The Grammels sold the farmstead to Kay Williams's father, William Sempliner, and Karl and Kay quickly purchased it from him. Before she would agree to the deal, Kay had one requirement: her dining room furniture had to fit into the house's dining room. When tourgoers see this beautiful and very historically interesting furniture, they will understand why.

Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:
Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer • 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- ☐ Students & Seniors \$5 ☐ Individual \$10 ☐ Family \$15
☐ Contributing \$25 ☐ Supporting \$50
☐ Sustaining \$100 ☐ Lifetime \$1,000

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

2010 Historic Home Tour



9981 West Ann Arbor Road, Superior Township

Geer School

The 1880 Geer School at the corner of Gotfredson and West Ann Arbor roads is a typical nineteenth-century brick one-room schoolhouse. The school was named after its first superintendent, William Geer, who donated the land for the building and hired Ypsilanti contractor Joseph Warner to put it up. The school served what was known as the "Geer Community," which included the post office and general store located in Geer's nearby home.

Geer School was required to meet standard requirements. It had to have at least a one-acre yard, coatrooms, outdoor toilets, a washbasin, a good water supply, and ample lighting. It is interesting to note that the prescribed size for a schoolhouse of that era matched the distance that a woman's voice was expected to carry. Geer School was uncommonly well-funded for a nineteenth-century school, and it provided its students with free textbooks. The building, which is lit by tall round-top windows, features side-by-side entrances for girls and boys, a slate blackboard, and a woodshed and two outdoor privies in the back.

A social center for the surrounding farm community, Geer School hosted meetings, dances, fund-raisers, spring picnics, and annual Thanksgiving Day dinners. The son and daughter of Kay and Karl Williams, whose house down the road is on today's tour, attended Geer School in the 1970s. The school continued to educate students until 1982, when it was closed. The community restored it in the late 1980s. Today Geer School provides a history lesson and a one-room school experience for fourth graders in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Thank You

to our Sponsors,

Home Owners & Volunteers

who make the Annual

Historic Home Tour

a success each year

Good News (continued from page 3)

Landscaping, large berms, many new trees, and new stone walls are transforming the EMU campus!

NEW BUSINESSES

Several new businesses have opened downtown and in Depot Town - we welcome them and they will welcome you!

WELCOME to new City Planner Teresa Gillotti and to new DDA Director Tim Colbeck!

*Thanks to everyone
who works to make Ypsilanti a
better place to live*

The **CITY EMPLOYEES** who, despite their reduced numbers, still get the job done!

Police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, mayor & city council! They're a great bunch doing a great job in hard times.

The **VOLUNTEERS** who keep the Rutherford Pool going, staff the Historical Museum, work tirelessly to reopen the Freighthouse, staff the Volunteer Service Crops of the Ypsilanti Police Department, staff the City Boards and Commissions, care for city parks and public gardens, and do endless other things that would otherwise go undone.

And, as always, **SPECIAL THANKS** to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties, who sweep and water, pick up and plant, repair and paint. If we missed mentioning you, know that without your effort Ypsilanti wouldn't be the great place it is!

There are still onions among the orchids - nobody knows that better than we do.

But, next year, again, there will be fewer onions and more orchids!

Come back and see us then! We love having you here and your annual visit is a wonderful incentive for us to "get ready for company"!

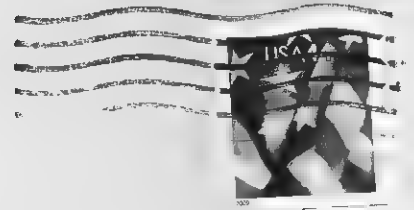
See you next year!



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

209 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



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Alex Pettit
Claudia Pettit
Don Randazzo
Jane Schmiedeke
Penny Schreiber

Denis & Jane Schmiedeke
313 High St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2912

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 7:30 pm

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Our Museums — Don't miss these treasures!



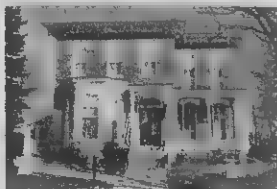
Michigan Firehouse Museum

110 W. Cross Street
between Huron and Washington streets
www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org



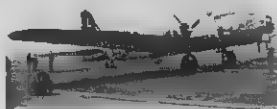
Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

100 E. Cross at North River
ypsautoheritage.org



Ypsilanti Historical Museum

220 N. Huron
between Washtenaw & Cross streets
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org



Yankee Air Museum

Grand Opening 10.10.2010
Willow Run Airport
www.yankeeairmuseum.org

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Restoration of the Glover House

presentation by home owner Steve Pierce



The meeting will be held at the
Ladies' Literary Club,
218 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti
Wednesday, September 22, at 7:30p.m.
The public is welcome.

Heritage NEWS

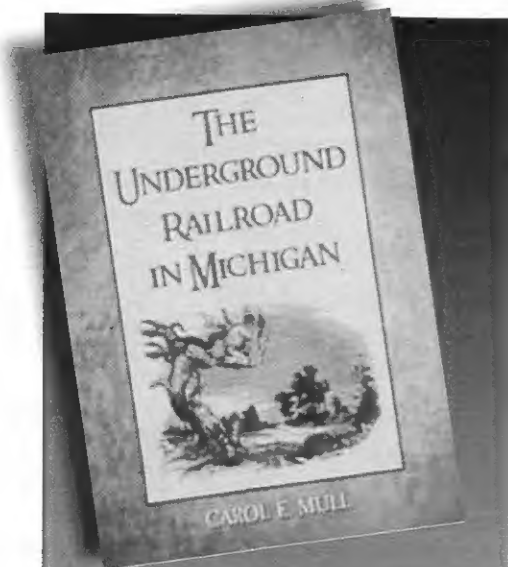
NOVEMBER 2010

Ypsilanti Heritage
Foundation
General Meeting

Wednesday
November 17, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St.
Ypsilanti

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN MICHIGAN



"I was fascinated by the information in *The Underground Railroad in Michigan*. As a Michigan resident, I didn't realize the important role my state played in helping self-emancipators gain freedom. The author did an excellent job providing the appropriate historical context (nationally as well as here in Michigan) while tying in compelling personal narratives. By the end of the book I felt proud of my home state and inspired by the courageous people who risked their lives to be conductors on the underground railroad. I would definitely be interested in reading more about this topic, especially more anecdotes of escapes that came through Southeastern Michigan."

This review is from Amazon.com: *The Underground Railroad in Michigan* by E. Trentacosta

Have you ever wondered what Michigan's role in the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement was?

It is probably more than you realize.

On Wednesday evening, November 17 please join us at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North Washington Street, at 7:30 for a special presentation by Carol Mull. Mull is author of the recently published book *The Underground Railroad in Michigan*. She is also a current and founding member of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission.

Mull will be speaking about her book, which includes first-person accounts of the Underground Railroad. It also offers an expansive historical overview of national events during the mid-nineteenth century and a fresh examination of Michigan's critical role in the movement to end American slavery. Citizens of Michigan during that era rose up to protest the moral offense of slavery, publishing an abolitionist newspaper and founding an anti-slavery society. They also campaigned for emancipation. By the 1840s, a prominent abolitionist from Illinois had crossed into Michigan to establish new stations on the Underground Railroad in the state.



Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing.

***Don't miss this special event.
Please join us on Wednesday,
November 17.***

The public is welcome and, as always, refreshments will be served.

Carol Mull



Starkweather Farm House Restoration



photos taken prior
to restoration

While doing restoration work on the Starkweather House on North Huron River Drive, Ron Rupert made a discovery that inspires restoration projects. After removing a trim board from a west side porch, Ron found "H R Scovill Lumber" and "Ypsilanti Mich" separately written on trim boards. Discoveries like these challenge discoverers to figure out what the information tells about the house.

John and Mary Ann Starkweather are the namesakes for the property and the first known owners of the house. John was born in 1807 in Seneca County, New York. Like many New York residents during this time, he moved west to Detroit in 1836. Mary Ann Newberry was also born in New York in 1819 and, with her parents, moved west to Romeo, Michigan. John and Mary Ann met and married in 1839. John was appointed by Governor Steven Mason as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction under John Pierce. John Pierce once lived in Ypsilanti at 506 Emmet. The relationship with John Pierce probably brought John Starkweather to Ypsilanti where he bought 160 acres of land bordering the Huron River slightly north and west of Ypsilanti and moved to Ypsilanti in 1841. It is uncertain if John bought the land with the house or if he built the house after purchasing the land. The house is Greek Revival in style which was the popular fashion in Ypsilanti between 1830 and 1860. Circa 1840 is the best that can be said about the date of construction.

Colburn in The Story of Ypsilanti mentions that H. R. Scovill opened his lumber company after mustering out of service during the Civil War and spending three years in California. We can figure his business started in the late 1860s.

John and Mary Ann moved from their farm house to the house we now know of as Ladies Library at the end of Washtenaw Avenue on N.



Ron examines the boards that he discovered on the west side porch.

Huron Street in 1874. John died there in 1883. According to the 1895 Washtenaw County Atlas, the property was still owned by John Starkweather in 1895.

So what does the trim board that Ron found tell us about the house? The porch on the west side of the house, where the trim board was found, was apparently built sometime after H. R. Scovill started his lumber company after the Civil War. The porch may have been built by John and Mary Ann or by a successive owner. Future discoveries by Ron as his restoration work continues may tell us more.



After removing a trim board from a west side porch, Ron found "H R Scovill Lumber" and "Ypsilanti Mich" separately written on trim boards.

Fact Sheets

available to assist property owners

The Ypsilanti Historic District Commission has a series of FACT SHEETS available to assist property owners and building contractors in planning appropriate rehabilitation of structures within the Historic District.

The heading on each Fact Sheets reads:

"The Historic District Commission requires that a building be maintained in its original form whenever possible. The character and historic value of a building both change whenever alterations are made and every effort shall be made to maintain the historical integrity of a building."

The series includes Fact Sheets on the following topics:

- Alternative Energy Systems
- Demolition or Moving of Structures
- Fences
- Graffiti Abatement
- Masonry Cleaning
- Mortar
- Porches
- Pressure-Treated Lumber
- Roof Work
- Satellite Dishes
- Signs and Awnings
- Windows
- Ypsilanti Historic District

When the need arises, a new Fact Sheet is developed or an existing one is updated. Although these Fact Sheets were developed to assist property owners in the Historic District, they may be helpful for other property owners, especially owners of older homes.

All of the Fact Sheets are available on the City website, cityofypsilanti.com. Click on **Boards/Commissions**, then choose **Historic District Commission** from the column on the right, then choose Fact Sheets to the list of available Fact Sheets.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

209 N. Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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See you at the Underground Railroad Program Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail.

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org

Saturday Candlelight Tour

6-10 pm

Hors d'oeuvres • Dessert • Music

Advance Tickets Only

Nelson Amos Studio - Depot Town
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\$40 per ticket

Buy 3 tickets, 4th ticket ½ off
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(734) 487-9669

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Sunday Tour

12-4:30 pm

Advance Tickets-\$15

Haab's Restaurant
Nelson Amos Studio
Salt City Antiques
Sidetrack

Day of Tour Tickets-\$20

Haab's Restaurant

Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels

14th Annual

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